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CLIN

GRASSROOTS

COMMUNITY WRITING AND ARTS



NOW PLAYING

City of Words

"A great writer creates a **city of words**,
a place that all listeners or readers can
enter to find themselves."

— A U.S. literary festival director, 1990



BLUE METROPOLIS

METROPOLIS BLEU

Thursday, April 6, 2006



The Centre
for Literacy

NO
PARKING

PUBLIC SESSION

Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival

Thursday, April 6, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Argenteuil Room, Hyatt Regency Montreal

1255 Jeanne Mance (Metro Station: Place-des-Arts)

The 2006 theme of the Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival — **City of Words** — can open doors into the physical realities of the cities we may inhabit or into the imaginary cities we construct in our minds.

A 21st-century view considers a more literal sense of the idea:

LED and LCD display texts intensify our image of the modern city as an electrical field. New technologies allow these letterforms to appear on almost any surface, from billboards to the windows and walls of buildings to the sides of buses and even clothing. What kind of writing is this?...<http://www.eyemagazine.com/feature.php?id=4&fid=6>

The community writing and arts strand of Blue Metropolis proposes that writers and artists outside traditional literary sites speak to the same shared human experiences we seek in literature, and sometimes display a hidden brilliance waiting to be discovered. Nowhere is this more evident than among adults who are part of communities that have been silenced in the past — at-risk youth and adults who came to literacy only in adulthood. These are the readers and performers in the 2006 Grassroots: Community Writing and Arts session. We have asked them to think about the theme as they prepare their presentations, and hope that some of their creations will contribute to building our local city of words.

Who should attend?

Community-based groups working with at-risk youth, the homeless, and other marginalized groups; literacy educators/teachers interested in non-formal adult basic education and in attracting new learners; artists and community arts educators; teachers who want their students to gain an understanding of the power of literacy; professional writers and artists; social workers and community facilitators; members of the public and media interested in alternative forums and venues for learning.

Who will participate?

Writers, producers, coordinators, artists, and researchers who have linked literacy and the arts through creating, performing, writing and learning in community-based settings.

This year's invitees include:

- Cowansville Academy of Lifelong Learning
- O2 Art Inc.
- Place Cartier Adult Centre

Moderator: Linda Shohet, Executive Director, The Centre for Literacy of Quebec

NEW THIS YEAR! – AWARDS CEREMONY

Since this is Quebec's Adult Learners' Week, two Adult Literacy Awards will be presented in recognition of the courage of adults who know it's never too late to learn to read and write, or improve their reading and writing. Two teachers or tutors who work with literacy students will also receive awards.

Jacques Demers has been invited to receive a Special Recognition Award for bringing positive public attention to the issue of adult literacy, and to present his recent book in English and French. Mike Boone, *Gazette* columnist, will host the ceremony

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**CITY OF
WORDS**



**The Centre
for Literacy**

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